United Nations A/ES-10/350–S/2006/570

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 July 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 25 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to use disproportionate and indiscriminate force and to launch military attacks against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, yesterday 24 July 2006, the occupying forces killed at least six more Palestinian civilians, including a 4-year-old girl, a 57-year-old grandmother and her 13-year-old grandson.

During the evening hours (Palestine time), Israeli tanks stationed on the northern borders of Beit Lahia fired artillery shells at the residential district of Al-Nada, which houses about 400 Palestinian families in the Gaza Strip. During this attack, Israeli occupying forces shelled the entrance of one apartment building, killing three Palestinian civilians, including a 4-year-old girl. Tens of others were injured, including three seriously. Moreover, hundreds of families living in the neighbourhood were forced to flee their homes after receiving threatening telephone calls from the Israeli occupying forces telling them they had only a short time to abandon their homes. In turn, this has created hundreds of newly internally displaced Palestinians. This attack, undoubtedly, also caused panic and fear to spread among the Palestinian civilian population living in the area.

Also yesterday, Israeli occupying forces fired a shell at a Palestinian family riding a donkey cart in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. The attack killed a 57-year-old grandmother and her 13-year-old grandson. The grandmother and several of her grandchildren were headed to their nearby farmland. On 21 July 2006, Israeli occupying forces killed four members of the same Harara family in Al-Shuja'yeh neighbourhood in Gaza City, firing shells at their home. Also on that same day, Israeli occupying forces opened fire on a Palestinian nurse in the West Bank town of Nablus, killing him instantly.

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It is important to highlight the comments made by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, during his recent trip to the region to assess the damage caused by the Israeli aggression against Gaza. He expressed his shock at the targeting of civilian infrastructure, including Gaza's only power plant. In comments to reporters, Mr. Egeland stated, "This is very clear, a disproportionate use of power". He continued by stating, "civilian infrastructure is protected. The law is very clear. You cannot have any interpretation in any other way".

The barbaric attacks committed by Israel against Lebanon continue to inflict immense human suffering among the civilian Lebanese population, including the refugee Palestinian population. In this regard, at least six Palestinian refugees were injured yesterday, including a baby, when three Israeli shells fell in the Palestinian refugee camp of Al-Rashidiyeh in Tyre. We call on the international community to exert all possible measures to ensure the protection of all civilians, including the Palestinian refugee population, from Israel's wide-scale onslaught against Lebanon.

The international community must take action to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its military attacks and to scrupulously abide by international law, particularly the provisions of the Fourth General Convention, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Lack of firm action by the international community will only allow Israel to carry on with impunity its illegal policies and practices against the Palestinian civilian population, leading to even more death, injury and loss for the Palestinian people, further fomenting the vicious cycle of violence and further destabilizing this dangerous situation in the region.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 256 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 July 2006 (A/ES-10/349-S/2006/554), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. Moreover, we reiterate once again that for all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that since my last letter to you, at least 17 more Palestinian civilians, including children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,084. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 25 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 20 July 2006, to Tuesday, 25 July 2006)

Thursday, 20 July 2006

1. Moussa Qandeel
2. Ismail Nazmi Rayyan

Friday, 21 July 2006

1. Ahmad Ennab
2. Mo'men Harara
3. Mohammad Harara
4. Amer Harara
5. Sabah Harara
6. Mostafa Qattoush

Saturday, 22 July 2006

1. Ahmad Abu Awwad

Monday, 24 July 2006

1. Khairiyya Hashem Al-Attar
2. Ibrahim Al-Attar (13 years old)
3. Saleh Ibrahim Nasser (15 years old)
4. Sadeq Abdel Ra'ouf Nasser
5. Sa'di Ahmed Na'eem
6. Khitam Tayeh (4 years old)

Tuesday, 25 July 2006

1. Khedr Al-Moghari
2. Wa'el Alayyan

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,084.